

examples, and bears Petiver's notes on the strips of paper which seal the mica sheets together. The butterfly is a "Monarch", *Danaus plexippus* (L.), one of the more common species on the eastern seaboard where Petiver's collectors worked, but there is no certain evidence as to which one of his numerous correspondents added it to the series of *plexippus* in his cabinet. The number "1465c" on the lower paper binding might have provided a clue, except that the particular inventory of Petiver's insects to which this refers has apparently not survived, at least in the extensive series of his papers in the Sloane MSS., British Library. There is a note on the upper paper binding, also in Petiver's hand, which reads "Mus. Petiver. 526. American". This refers to entry 526 in Petiver's *Musei Petiveriani Centuria Sexta & Septima* [London, 1699], in which the butterfly which Linnaeus would name *plexippus* is described as "Papilio *Marianus* aurantiacus, maculis albis, limbis & venis latis nigricantibus;" p. 51.

There are, however, several specimens in Petiver's collection at the B.M. (N.H.) referred to 526, and one can only conclude that this earliest specimen in America was collected at the end of the seventeenth century or the beginning of the eighteenth; that it could, because of the reference to "Marianus", have been sent to Petiver by any one of his Maryland collectors, such as Hugh Jones, David Krieg, or William Vernon; or, alternatively, that Petiver could have used the number (as he did in other cases) to refer to material from other localities—and we know that *plexippus* was supplied to him from as far north as the Boston area, e.g. by Benjamin Bullivant. Apart from the loss of its antennae, some of its scales and several of its legs, the specimen is well preserved, testifying to Petiver's care in securing his collection from vermin.

A question remains about how the *plexippus* left Petiver's natural history cabinet. Many of the mica "sandwiches" have disappeared from the bound volumes of his collection, certainly before they came into the watchful care of the present Department; presumably these were removed in the eighteenth and perhaps even the nineteenth centuries, either for study or as curiosities of an earlier age of entomology. Whatever the reason for its alienation from Petiver's collection, the American *plexippus* will eventually join its fellows at the British Museum (Natural History). — Dr. R. S. WILKINSON, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

SOME COMPARATIVE OBSERVATIONS BETWEEN POPULATIONS OF *COLEOPHORA BADIIPPENNELLA* (DUPONCHEL) IN S. ENGLAND AND N. SWITZERLAND. — J. M. Chalmers-Hunt considers that the best time to look for full grown larvae of *Coleophora badiipennella* (Dup.) in Kent is the last fortnight in September (cf. *Proc. Brit. Ent. Soc.*, 7: 77). I find that this is sound advice, although cases can still be found commonly throughout October and a few hibernate on the twigs and resume feeding in the spring, till about mid-May.

I have with me eight cases taken off *Ulmus procera* Salis. at Dartford Heath, Kent, in October 1975. The lengths of these cases ranged from 5.0 mm-6.2 mm. Some younger larval cases were all 2.5 mm. long, attached to 6.0 mm.-7.0 mm. cut outs.

The main emergence period tends to be about the middle of June, slightly earlier or later, according to season.

In the Basel area of Switzerland, I have found 12 cases of this species between the 4th and 9th June this year. The lengths of these cases ranged between 6.5 mm. and 9.5 mm., the average being 8 mm. They were feeding on *Ulmus glabra* Huds. Five of the smaller overwintered cases were also found, showing that five at least had constructed their final case in the spring, not in September as in England. None of the larger cases, however, looked as if they had endured a winter. The lengths of these five cases were: one 2.5 mm., one 3.0 mm., and three 3.5 mm.

All but two of these cases produced parasites during the second week in July. The two moths emerged on the 3rd July.

A search on the 11th September revealed a number of young *Coleophora* cases. The egg was found tucked up into the hairs against a rib, usually in the angle of a lateral vein and the midrib. From this, the larva had mined an area 3-4 mm. x 1 mm., leaving dispersed grains of frass. Out of the end of this mine a 1.5 mm.-2.0 mm. case is cut, leaving a 2.0 mm.-2.5 mm. cut out, The larva had then fed a little in this case before constructing a further case 3.5 mm.-4.0 mm. in length.

The first case was light ochreous-grey, almost erect on the leaf, whereas the second case formed an angle of about 45° and was dark grey with the terminal $\frac{1}{3}$ whitish.

I will have to wait until next year to see if these larvae were the early stages of *badiipennella* or whether perhaps they were of *Coleophora limosipennella* (Dup.). In Britain, it is thought that *badiipennella* makes only two cases normally in its life cycle. *Limosipennella* is known to make three, but the nine overwintered first cases I have taken of this species have been between 2.0 mm. and 3.0 mm. in length. The 20 overwintered second cases I have taken were, however, between 3.0 mm. and 4.0 mm. The final case of this species ranges between 10.0 mm. and 12.5 mm., but exceptionally it reaches 14.0 mm.

What makes the S. England larvae feed up quicker than those from Switzerland? — S. E. WHITEBREAD, Hofackerstrasse 7, CH-4132 MUTTENZ, Switzerland, 1.x.1976.

THE SPECKLED WOOD (PARARGE AEGERIA L.) IN MADEIRA.
— My friend Mr. N. D. Riley took a single specimen of this species on 8th October this year (1976), while he was on a short visit to Madeira. The specimen now in my collection, is a fresh, brightly marked female of the typical form (*P. a. aegeria*), taken about 15 miles north of Funchal at Ribeiro Frio, near Forest Lodge, flying at 860 m. The endemic *Pararge xiphia* was flying at the time, but *P. aegeria* was not seen again. This appears to be the first reliable record of the occurrence